

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2012 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 54**

#### **Fall Update # 9, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

#### **Fall Season Assessment**

The cumulative fall chum salmon total run size through September 7, based on run reconstruction, is approximately 959,244 fish. This is above the historical median of 624,182 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon passage by the Pilot Station sonar project through September 7, based on run reconstruction, is approximately 157,138 fish, which is below the historical median of 166,566 fish for that date.

#### ***Lower Yukon River Cooperative Drift Test Fishing*** – YDFDA, ADF&G

ADF&G ceased conducting test fish drifts on August 28. YDFDA is continuing the drift project through September 20.

The cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon through September 15 was 2,022, which is above the historical median of 1,150 for that date. The cumulative CPUE through September 15 for coho salmon was 455, which is above the historical median of 382 for that date.

#### ***Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing*** - Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council and BSFA

The cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon through September 13 is 1,106, which is below the historical median of 2,228 for that date. The cumulative CPUE for coho salmon through September 13 is 776, which is below the historical median of 1,104 for that date. This project has ceased operations for the season.

#### ***Pilot Station Sonar Project*** - ADF&G

Pilot Station sonar project ceased operations for the season on September 7. The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 7 is approximately 682,871 fish, which is above the median passage of 594,060 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon passage through

September 7 is approximately 106,793 fish, which is below the median passage of 135,570 fish for that date.

***Rapids Test Fish Wheel Project - Zuray***

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE through September 17 is approximately 22,227 fish, which is below the historical median of 24,404 fish for that date. The cumulative CPUE based on adjusted water level is above the historical median for that date.

***Chandalar Sonar Project - USFWS***

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 17 is approximately 132,451 fish, which is below the average passage of 157,528 fish for that date. The current passage has exceeded the lower end of the biological escapement goal of 74,000-152,000 fall chum salmon.

***Sheenjek Sonar Project - ADF&G***

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 17 is approximately 53,376 fish, which is below the average passage of 58,441 fish for that date.

***Tanana Test Fish Wheel Project - Moore***

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 16 is approximately 20,440 fish, which is above the average of 6,567 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon passage through September 16 is 6,486 fish, which is above the average of 1,199 fish for that date.

***Eagle Sonar Project - ADF&G & DFO***

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 17 is 52,421 fish, which is below the average passage of 63,465 fish for that date. Average cumulative passage, based on years of sonar operation, is 31% for this date.

***Stock Identification***

Fall chum salmon genetic samples processed from August 23 through September 7 passage past Pilot Station sonar indicate that stocks represent approximately 64%, 12%, and 15% for Tanana, Border/US (Chandalar/Sheenjek), and Mainstem Canada respectively. These proportions are above average for Tanana and Border/US and below average for Mainstem Canada based on the 2004-2011 dataset.

***Age Composition***

The fall chum salmon age composition from the 6" LYTF drift nets through August 28 was 0.8% age-3, 77.8% age-4, 18.4% age-5, and 3.0% age-6 fish. The average age-4 fish is 66.0% and average age-5 fish 31.5% for this date. The sample size was 1,069 fish for ages and 1,086 for gender. Females contributed 54.9% to the samples, which is below the average of 58.0%.

The combined fall chum salmon age composition from commercial harvest periods in District 1 (through August 27) was 81.3% age-4, 16.3% age-5, and 1.8% age-6 fish. The sample size was 948 fish for ages and 959 for gender. The proportion of females in the commercial catch samples was 53.7%.

The coho salmon age composition from the 6" LYTF drift nets through August 28 was 31.9% age-3, 63.6% age-4, and 4.5% age-5 fish. The average age-3 fish is 14.5%, average age-4 fish is 77.5% and average age-5 fish 4.8% for this date. The sample size was 205 fish for ages and 210 for gender. Females contributed 47.6% to the samples, which is above the average of 44.8%.

The combined coho salmon age composition from commercial harvest periods in District 1 (through August 27) was 18.3% age-3, 75.0% age-4, and 6.6% age-5 fish. The sample size was 412 fish for ages and 415 for gender. The proportion of females in the commercial catch samples was 41.3%.

### **Fall Season Management**

In accordance with the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, a total run ranging from 950,000 to 1 million fish is adequate for escapement needs, full subsistence opportunity, and has a surplus available for other uses. Subsistence fishing is open 7 days per week in all mainstem districts (Districts 1-5).

### ***Fall Commercial Salmon Fishing***

Through September 16, thirteen fall commercial fishing periods have been announced in District Y-1, eleven periods in District Y-2, seven periods in Subdistrict 4-A, six period in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, and six periods in District 6. The commercial salmon fishing season in Districts Y-1 and Y-2 closed by regulation after September 10. Additional commercial fishing periods in the remaining districts and subdistricts will be dependent upon inseason run strength assessment and market interest.

#### Preliminary harvest information for District Y-1:

The cumulative harvest for Y-1 through September 10 is 139,236 fall chum and 39,638 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 71 fish.

#### Preliminary harvest information for District Y-2:

The cumulative harvest for Y-2 through September 10 is 127,947 fall chum and 29,250 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 34 fish.

#### Preliminary harvest information for Subdistrict 4-A:

Period #6: Subdistrict 4-A, 120 hours (6:00 p.m. September 11 until 6:00 p.m. September 16).  
0 fall chum, 0 coho.

Period #7: Subdistrict 4-A, 120 hours (6:00 p.m. September 18 until 6:00 p.m. September 23).  
No harvest information is available at this time.

The cumulative Subdistrict 4-A commercial harvest through September 16 is 1,214 fall chum salmon and the incidental harvest (not sold): 0 Chinook salmon.

Preliminary harvest information for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C:

Period #5: Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, 120 hours (6:00 p.m. September 11 until 6:00 p.m. September 16). 0 fall chum, 0 coho.

Period #7: Subdistrict 5-B and 5-C, 120 hours (6:00 p.m. September 18 until 6:00 p.m. September 23). No harvest information is available at this time.

The cumulative commercial harvest for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C through September 9 is 1,384 fall chum salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 0.

Preliminary harvest information for District 6:

Period #4: District 6, 42 hours (6:00 p.m. September 10 until 12:00 noon September 12). 2,128 fall chum/15,516 lbs, 325 coho/1,501 lbs.

Period #5: District 6, 42 hours (6:00 p.m. September 14 until 12:00 noon September 16). 3,216 fall chum/22,570 lbs, 1,298 coho/7,098 lbs.

Period #6: District 6, 42 hours (6:00 p.m. September 17 until 12:00 noon September 19). No harvest information is available at this time.

The cumulative commercial harvest for District 6 through September 16 is 8,022 fall chum and 1,703 coho salmon.

***Subsistence Salmon Fishing***

Coastal District: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Districts 1, 2, 3: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

The Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 4: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller. Use of drift gillnets to harvest fall chum salmon is allowed in that portion of Subdistrict 4-A from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point during open subsistence fishing periods.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing in the Koyukuk River is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 5-D: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the downstream mouth of Wood River): This area includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana. Subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays. In the Old Minto Area, subsistence fishing for salmon is open for one 5 day fishing period per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays.

Subdistricts 6-C (from the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River): This area includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha. Personal use salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at (907) 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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